

**United States
Environmental Protection Agency
Region 4 Atlanta**

**Notice of Availability of Funds,
Program Guidance
&
Request for Work Plans and Applications**

for

INDIAN GENERAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (GAP) GRANTS,

SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT ASSISTANCE (SW) GRANTS,

CLEAN AIR ACT SECTION 103 (AIR) GRANTS,

&

**DRINKING WATER INFRASTRUCTURE TRIBAL SET-ASIDE
(PWSS) GRANTS**

FY-2009 Grant Cycle: October 1, 2008 to September 30, 2009

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General Assistance Program:

Dan O'Lone 404-562-9434, olone.dan@epa.gov or
 Bill Patton 404-562-8632, patton.bill@epa.gov

Solid Waste Management Assistance

Davy Simonson 404-562-8457, simonson.davy@epa.gov

Clean Air Act Section 103 program

Gracy R. Danois 404-562-9119, danois.gracy@epa.gov

Drinking Water Infrastructure Grants Tribal Set-Aside

Chris Thomas 404-562-9459, thomas.chris@epa.gov

Contact Information for Programs not contained in this Announcement:

Brownfields:

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INTRODUCTION

Federally-recognized Indian Tribes within EPA Region 4 and intertribal consortia are eligible to receive funds under this Announcement. These funds are not competitive grants and are exempt from EPA Grants Competition Policy (EPA Order 5700.5A1) under Sections 6(b)2 and Section 6(c)(6).

PURPOSE

The purpose of this document is to provide Tribes with a concise list of programs having dedicated Tribal funds. However, not all programs that work with Tribes are included in this Announcement. There are other EPA programs with funds available to Tribes that were unable to be included in this year's announcement. In the future, EPA-Region 4 will strive to expand this announcement to include as many programs as possible. Also, some programs may offer competitive grants, so grantees should contact the individuals listed above for details.

This document is intended to provide quick reference to the eligibility requirements for grant award and the important dates associated with the grant process. The organization of the document allows a potential grantee to locate detailed information on a program of interest. Also included is a single table showing deadlines for programs which are a part of the document.

Significant benefits accrue to grantees choosing a Performance Partnership Grant (PPG) and EPA will process any and all requests to enter into PPGs as quickly as possible. Please refer to the specific programmatic portion of this announcement for grants opportunities that can be consolidated into a PPG

Although EPA Region 4 is issuing a consolidated notice for these grant opportunities available to Tribes, each program will retain all grant processing and award responsibilities

IMPORTANT DATES*

***Funding is jeopardized if materials are received after due dates.**

Milestone	Programs			
	GAP & OECA	SW	AIR	PWSS
Announcement & Guidance distributed by EPA	2/14/08	2/14/08	2/14/08	2/14/08
Draft Work plan Proposals due to EPA	3/17/08	3/17/08	3/17/08	
Funding Decision Notification by EPA	4/11/08	4/11/08	4/11/08	
Complete, Signed Applications due	5/15/08	5/15/08	5/15/08	4/17/08
Grant Awarded by	9/30/08	9/30/08	9/30/08	9/30/08
Reports due (Quarterly or Semi-Annually)	Q	Q	Q	S
Final Report & FSR are due within 90 days after the project end date				

INDIAN GENERAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

I. FUNDING OPPORTUNITY DESCRIPTION AND AWARD INFORMATION

Indian General Assistance Program(GAP):

The goal of GAP is to assist tribes in developing the capacity to manage their own environmental protection programs and to develop and implement solid and hazardous waste management programs in accordance with their individual needs.

While the final allotments have not been communicated to the regions by Headquarters, the Region anticipates approximately \$600,000 will be available for FY 09. The vast majority of this amount will be awarded for traditional capacity-building work as envisioned by Tribal grantees.

During 2009, Region 4 will continue to emphasize the importance of environmental management systems (EMSs) and improved solid waste management. Grantees agreeing to design and implement an EMS for one or more Tribal Governmental Departments or multiple business enterprises such as factories, casinos or hotels will be considered for additional funding over this coming grant year and the next. Details for this area of emphasis are provided later in this document. Tribes proposing to design integrated solid waste management planning also will be considered for additional funding.

Applicants should submit proposals for GAP funds for approximately \$100,000. Tribal matching funds are not required under GAP.

II. ELIGIBLE ACTIVITIES AND INFORMATION

For GAP:

EPA's Strategic Plan establishes the Agency's national goals for a five-year period and describes how EPA intends to achieve a cleaner, healthier environment. These goals are specific, date-certain commitments for achieving environmental results. Within the Strategic Plan, EPA has established five goals. GAP falls under Goal 5, Compliance and Environmental Stewardship; Object 3, Building Tribal Capacity. When approving work plans, EPA must ensure that all GAP funded work plan activities can be linked to EPA's Strategic Plan.

Capacity Building Activities Capacity building activities through this program may include developing appropriate administrative and legal infrastructures, establishing tribal technical capability, establishing enforcement and compliance mechanisms, and developing integrated tribal environmental management programs that can be implemented with appropriate funding sources, such as program-specific EPA grants. For a more detailed listing of such activities, see the GAP Program Guidance issued in 2000, found at (<http://epa.gov/indian/pdfs/gap2000.pdf>)

Special Emphasis Area (EMS) In 2008, Region 4 launched a multi-year initiative to encourage the design and adoption of Environmental Management Systems (EMSs). An EMS is a means to

more effectively manage an organization's environmental obligations. In general, EMSs reduce the environmental impact of Tribes' operations, both governmental and business. Organizations which operate from EMSs often begin by seeking ways to save operating expenses through reduction of electrical energy bills or conservation of water, and later expand the scope of the EMS to include recycling and conservation of natural resources.

For this grant cycle, EPA is offering funding to Tribal governments proposing to engage in the first steps in EMS development. Tribes may propose to develop an EMS for one or more Tribal Governmental Department (Education, Health, Administration, Public Safety, Cultural, Transportation) or one or more business enterprise (factory, casino, hotel).

Additional funding is available for those Tribes proposing to design plans for reducing impacts in measurable ways. Tribes proposing to design and implement a complete EMS may do so over a 24-month timeframe. Tribes have the option to incorporate EMS work into the main work plan or as supplemental proposals.

III. WORKPLAN PROPOSAL AND APPLICATION SUBMISSION INFORMATION

GAP is requiring all applicants to use the template shown below. An electronic copy is attached to the electronic version of this Announcement. The Region strongly encourages the use of the template for applications to other programs as well, if the program does not specify a format. EPA plans on providing web access to a site that will assist Tribes in writing its work plans. This same site will assist the grantee in making reports and will in the future interface with grants.gov for on-line application of grants. The Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance (CFDA) Number for GAP is 66.926.

EPA is in the process of adopting GAP Online, which is a web-based tool designed to enable the development, negotiation, and implementation of GAP work plans, as well as reporting on the progress of work plan commitments. This tool will be required in 2010 and is currently available. Its use is strongly encouraged when applying for FY 09 funding. Training will be offered in Boston March 18-19, 2008 and again later in the year. More detailed information on the March training will be forthcoming. The URL for GAP Online is http://iaspub.epa.gov/GAP_Online/ (there's an underscore between GAP and Online) and the Tribal User's Manual can be found at <http://www.epa.gov/indian/pdfs/gap-online-tribal-guide-2007.pdf>.

Draft Work plans must be postmarked by March 17, 2008 and should be sent in paper form or by email attachment (in WORD) to:

William (Bill) Patton
USEPA ORA, 14th Floor
61 Forsyth St., S.W.
Atlanta, GA 30303
patton.bill@epa.gov

**Table 1: General Assistance Program
Standardized Work Plan Format**

Tribe: _____

Region: _____

Work Plan Period Begin _____ End: _____

Work Plan Component X:

Primary Capacity Area Developed (check one):

Legal__ **Enforcement/Compliance** __ **Technical/Non-Administrative** __ **Communications** __ **Administrative**__ **Solid/Hazardous Waste Implementation**__

Long-Term Outcome(s) (Changes in the Environment, Public Health, Behavior or Knowledge):

•

Intermediate Outcome(s) (this work plan period):

•

•

•

ESTIMATED COMPONENT COST:

ESTIMATED COMPONENT WORK YEARS:

COMMITMENTS		CAPACITY AREA DEVELOPED	ESTIMATED COMMITMENT COST (optional)	END DATE	OUTPUTS AND DELIVERABLES
1					
2					
3					
4					
5					

EPA Use Only

2006-2011 EPA Strategic Plan

Goal X:

Objective X.X:

Sub-objective X.X.X:

IV. AWARD INFORMATION AND ADMINISTRATION

Regulations governing the award and administration of environmental program grants for tribes, including GAP, SW and OECA can be found at 40 CFR Part 31, for the Clean Air Act Section 103 program grants in Part 35, and with PPGs, at 40 CFR Part 35, Subpart B. Copy this link and paste to your browser: <http://www.epa.gov/EPA-GENERAL/2001/January/Day-16/g219.htm>

Application for Federal Assistance (SF-424) and all required forms can be located at http://epa.gov/region4/grants/application_forms_and_attachments.htm.

Financial Status Reports (FSRs) must be submitted within 90 days after grant periods expire.

Dispute procedures can be found at 40 CFR Part 30 (30.63) and 40 CFR Part 31 (31.70). Links are noted above.

CLEAN AIR ACT SECTION 103

I. Funding Opportunity Description and Award Information

Clean Air Act Section 103 Program:

Section 103 of the Clean Air Act serves as the tool used to support short-term projects aimed at conducting and promoting research, investigations, experiments, demonstrations, surveys, and studies relating to the causes, effects (including health and welfare effects), extent, prevention, and control of air pollution. Proposals approved for funding under Section 103 of the CAA are 100% federally funded and no cost share/match is required. Please note that Section 103 projects are not eligible for inclusion in a Performance Partnership Agreement (PPG).

The proposed activities must relate to and fit within the scope of the U.S. EPA's Strategic Plan's goals and objectives. Specifically, the Section 103 grants must relate to the following goals and objectives:

1. **Goal 1** - Clean Air and Global Climate Change, **Objective 1.1** – Healthier Outdoor Air and **Objective 1.2** – Healthier Indoor Air; or
2. **Goal 5** – Compliance and Environmental Stewardship, **Objective 5.3** – Improve Human Health and the Environment in Indian Country

The Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance (CFDA) number for the CAA Section 103 grants is: 66.038: Training, Investigation and Special Purpose Activities of Federally-Recognized Tribes Consistent with the Clean Air Act (CAA) Tribal Sovereignty and the Protection and Management of Air Quality

II. ELIGIBLE ACTIVITIES AND INFORMATION

Eligible Activities

Projects eligible for funding under Section 103 include but are not limited to ambient (outdoor) and indoor air quality management research, investigations, experiments, demonstrations, surveys, and studies relating to the causes, effects (including health and welfare effects), extent, prevention, and control of air pollution. Additional information can be obtained from the Office of Air and Radiation's "Tribal Menu of Options", which can be accessed at <http://www.epa.gov/oar/tribal/pdfs/menuofoptions.pdf>

The total funding estimated to be available for this opportunity is approximately \$50,000. For information concerning content of proposals and grant applications for CAA Section 103 grant opportunities, please refer to Section III of this portion of the Notice.

III. WORKPLAN PROPOSAL AND APPLICATION SUBMISSION INFORMATION

1. Draft Workplan proposals for CAA Section 103 funds must be postmarked by March 17, 2008, and should be sent in paper form or electronically to:

Gracy R. Danois
Tribal Air Coordinator
Environmental Protection Agency
4AP-APB/APS
61 Forsyth St, S.W.
Atlanta, GA 30303
danois.gracy@epa.gov

2. CAA Section 103 Program - Application and Submission Information

All of the items identified below must be addressed in the proposal.

A. Proposal Requirements: Applicants are required to submit proposals containing a cover page, narrative workplan, budget narrative, a list of previous U.S. EPA grants, and resumes for expected personnel or position descriptions for those Tribes/consortium without current staff in place.

B. Workplan Elements: Each proposal should include the following components to demonstrate a successful project or program will be achieved:

1. Cover Page: Include the following information:
 - a. Project Title.
 - b. Project Manager: Identify who will serve as the principal party responsible for accomplishing the activities outlined in the workplan.

- c. Total Project Cost: Specify total cost of the project (U.S. EPA funding and cost-share). Also, identify funding from any other source that may be contributing financial support.
 - d. Project Period: Provide beginning and ending dates. Funds will only be available to begin project/program activities on or after October 1, 2008 and end no later than September 30, 2008.
 - e. Type of Grant: Indicate which authority (Section 103) your Tribe/organization is applying for and whether it will be a new grant, or amendment.
2. Narrative Workplan: The narrative workplan must explicitly describe the items included below. Do not make assumptions that reviewers are familiar with your situation or expectations. Refer to the **Tribal Menu of Options** at: <http://www.epa.gov/oar/tribal/grants.html> for further information on developing workplans involving air components.
- a. Project Description: Illustrate the need for the project/program.
Please include the following elements in the Project Description:
 - 1) Problem Statement:
Provide a well-supported statement or needs assessment of the problem to be addressed which demonstrates the reason your Tribe should receive 103 funding support.
 - 2) Objectives:
Identify the project objectives. Objectives should be specific, measurable, and clearly describe how they are related to and lead to the project goals and expected environmental results. Objectives should also be linked to the “public” benefits to be obtained.
 - 3) Project Methods:
Outline **in detail** the necessary tasks and activities that will be conducted to accomplish the objectives. Describe why you have chosen these activities to obtain the desired environmental results. The tasks and activities should be realistic and achievable within the budget and project period of the grant.
 - 4) Specific Environmental Outputs:
Identify the specific outputs. Deliverables of an environmental activity, effort, and/or associated work products related to an environmental goal or objectives, that will be developed over a period of time or by a specified date. Outputs may be quantitative or qualitative but must be measurable during an assistance agreement funding period. For example, an air quality management plan, an emissions inventory, raw and summarized air monitoring data, or progress reports submitted on a quarterly basis.
 - 5) Desired Environmental Outcomes:
Articulate the desired environmental outcomes. The result, effect or consequence that will occur from carrying out an environmental activity that is related to an environmental or programmatic goal or objective.

Outcomes may be environmental, behavioral, health-related or programmatic in nature, must be quantitative, and may not necessarily be achievable within an assistance agreement funding period. For example, “Significant number of community members with increased awareness of Indoor Air Quality issues,” or “Increased number of Tribal residents breathing cleaner air.”

6) Target Dates & Milestones:

Include an estimated time-line or schedule of expected target dates and milestones to achieve specific tasks and accomplishments during the budget and project period.

7) Performance Measures:

Provide a detailed explanation of how the project shall be evaluated (through quantitative means, if possible). Applicants should develop criteria to evaluate progress and results. Evaluation should occur during as well as after the project activities are conducted to make sure appropriate adjustments can be made along the way, if necessary. For example, if you are conducting inspections for mold, provide a target number of residences/community buildings that you plan to perform each quarter.

8) Program Manager/Contact(s):

Identify all individuals or parties who will be involved in the project activities, and a description of their respective roles/responsibilities.

- b. Funding Requested: Specify the amount you are requesting from EPA.
- c. Quality Assurance: If the project involves environmentally related measurements or data generation, a Quality Assurance Project Plan (QAPP) is required. If the grantee has an EPA approved QAPP, reference this, or assert that the plan will be developed before any data is generated and/or analyzed. For further questions on QAPP development, please contact **Marilyn Maycock** at **706-355-8553** or **maycock.marilyn@epa.gov**.
- d. Reporting Requirements: Discuss your commitment to provide quarterly reports and a detailed follow-up final report. Applicants are further required to make a commitment to share all data collected with EPA for assessment on a regional level.

1) Quarterly Reports:

Include a description of the progress status in meeting environmental outputs and outcomes on a quarterly reporting basis, project/program assessment, and submission of short data summaries. Region will establish reporting schedule upon approval for funding.

2) Final Reports:

The final report should include a summary of the project, advances achieved applicable to environmental outputs and outcomes, and costs of the project. In addition, the final report shall discuss the problems, successes, lessons learned from the demonstration project that could help overcome structural, organizational or technical obstacles to implementing a similar project elsewhere.

Note - All ambient, emissions, and compliance data obtained through the use of these funds must be entered in the corresponding national data base (i.e. National Emissions Inventory and Air Quality System). This data is available to the general public. TEISS software is available to Tribes from the Institute of Tribal Environmental Professionals (ITEP).

3. Budget Narrative:

Provide a detailed itemized budget proposal, including a narrative statement justifying the expenses for each of the following categories being performed within the grant/project period.

a. Personnel:

Indicate salaries and wages, by job title of all individuals who will be supplemented with these funds. For example:

* Air Quality Specialist @ \$600/wk x 52 weeks = \$31,200

(or)

* Air Quality Specialist @ \$15/hr x 40 hrs/wk x 52/wks = \$31,200

Total = \$31,200

b. Fringe Benefits:

Indicate all mandated and voluntary benefits to be supplemented with these funds. For example:

* Health Insurance - 1 FTE @ \$35/month x 12/months = \$420

* Dental - 1 FTE @ \$40/mo x 12/months = \$480

Total = \$900

c. Travel:

Indicate number of individuals traveling, destination, number of trips, and reason for travel. For example:

* Air Quality Training

Air Fare \$750 x 1 FTE = \$750

Per Diem @ \$43 day x 3 days x 1 FTE = \$129

Hotel @ \$100 day x 2 days x 1 FTE = \$200

* Air Conference

Local Travel Mileage - 1000 miles x \$0.36 = \$360

Total = \$1,439

d. Equipment:

Identify items to be purchased such as air quality related instruments used in support of workplan objectives. Provide an estimated cost for each item. Make sure you can support your cost estimate. EPA policy defines equipment as items costing \$5,000 or greater. Indicate if your Tribe/organization's definition differs. For example:

* Ozone Analyzer - \$8,000

* Ozone Calibrator - \$6,000

Total = \$14,000

e. Supplies:

Indicate any items to be purchased that will be used in support of air project/program workplan objectives. For example:

* General office supplies (pens, notebooks, paper-clips, CD Roms, etc.)

Total = \$500

f. Contractual:

Indicate any proposed contractual items that are reasonable and necessary to carry out the workplan objectives. Examples of contractual items include sample analysis, and rental or lease of property being utilized in support of workplan objectives. For example:

* Total mercury analysis - ABC Lab

[52 samples @ \$100 = \$5200]

* Shipping costs (site to lab)

[\$15.00 per sample = 15 x 52 = \$780]

Total = \$5980

g. Other:

Indicate general (miscellaneous) expenses necessary to carry out the objectives stated in the workplan. For example:

* Outreach materials (brochures/pamphlets, etc) = \$260

* Office needs (postage, phone, fax, etc.) = \$300

* Office space (utilized for air-related project/program staff)

[\$120/mo x 12/mo = \$1440]

Total = \$2000

h. Total Direct Charges:

Summary of all costs associated with each object-class category.

*** Total = \$56,019**

i. Total Indirect Costs:

Tribe/organization must provide documentation of a federally approved indirect cost rate (percentage) reflective of proposed project/grant period. Applicant should indicate if Tribe/organization is in negotiations with appropriate federal agency to obtain a new rate.

*** IDC Rate is 10% of total direct charges = \$5602**

j. Total Cost:

Indicate overall figure of all direct and indirect costs. For example:

*** Total Budget = \$61,621**

4. Previous Grants:

Provide a list of all of the grants your Tribe/organization has received from EPA.

5. Resumes/Position Description:

Provide a current copy of each resume for all individuals expected to be supplemented with these funds. If the position is currently vacant or will be created as a result of obtaining grant assistance, provide a position description for each potential job to be filled.

C. Confidential Business Information. In accordance with 40 CFR 2.203, applicants may claim all or a portion of their application/proposal as confidential business information. EPA will evaluate confidential claims in accordance with 40 CFR Part 2. Applicants must clearly mark applications/proposals or portions of applications/proposals they claim as confidential. If no claim of confidentiality is made, EPA is not required to make the inquiry to the applicant otherwise required by 40 CFR 2.204 (c)(2) prior to disclosure. Note that under Public Law No. 105-277, data produced under an award is subject to the Freedom of Information Act.

IV. AWARD INFORMATION AND ADMINISTRATION

Regulations governing the award and administration of Clean Air Act Section 103 program grants can be found in Part 35. This information can be found at the following link:

<http://www.epa.gov/EPA-GENERAL/2001/January/Day-16/g219.htm>

Financial Status Reports (FSRs) must be submitted within 90 days after grant periods expire.

M/WBE reports must be filed with EPA quarterly.

QAPP certification forms with the application package.

Dispute procedures can be found at 40 CFR Part 30 (30.63) and 40 CFR Part 31 (31.70).

DRINKING WATER INFRASTRUCTURE - TRIBAL SET-ASIDE

I. FUNDING OPPORTUNITY DESCRIPTION AND AWARD INFORMATION

The Reauthorization of the Safe Drinking Water Act in 1996 created a State Revolving Fund loan program, whereby funding could be made available to make infrastructure improvements. Through this authority, EPA established the Drinking Water Infrastructure Grants Tribal Set-Aside (DWIG TSA) Program. Community water systems, and non-profit, non-community water systems, that serve a tribal population are eligible to have projects funded, in whole or in part, with DWIG TSA funds.

Under this program the EPA Regional offices developed guidelines, within a loose framework of national guidance, for the selection and prioritization of projects to be funded, in consultation with the tribes within that Region. The national guidance can be found at:

<http://www.epa.gov/safewater/dwsrf/allotments/tribes/index.html>

A copy of the Regional guidelines, Drinking Water Infrastructure Grants – Tribal Set-Aside Construction Program, September, 2001, can be requested from the contact listed on page three of this Notice/Announcement.

During April 2000, representatives of the six tribes in Region 4 Indian country advised EPA that they do not wish to compete with each other in the distribution of DWIG-TSA funds. It was their desire that a rotational system be established, with all of a fiscal year's funding going to a single tribe, with the recipient tribe changing every year. This desire was formally expressed in a letter to the Drinking Water Section dated October 2000 and further expressed in Resolution 1001.029 from the United South and Eastern Tribes, Incorporated's Board of Governors, executed on February 1, 2001. Thus a rotational order was established by the tribes for fiscal years 2001-2006. The rotation was revised by the tribes in a letter dated June 28, 2006, by the Chairman of the Region 4 Tribal Operations Committee.

The order for fiscal years 2007 through 2012 is as follows:

Miccosukee Tribe of Indians of Florida - 2007

Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians - 2008

Poarch Band of Creek Indians - 2009

Seminole Tribe of Florida - 2010

Catawba Indian Nation – 2011

Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians - 2012

It is anticipated the DWIG-TSA program for Region 4 will be funded at the same targeted level of \$431,300.

II. ELIGIBLE ACTIVITIES AND INFORMATION

Goal 2 of the EPA's 2006 – 2011 Strategic Plan is to have "Clean and Safe Water". To meet sub-objective 2.1.1 of this plan EPA is funding projects that assist Tribal community water systems to meet all health based drinking water standards.

There are five basic types of projects which can be funded under the DWIG-TSA program:

- 1) Development of a Feasibility Study &/or Facility Plan
- 2) Design
- 3) Construction & Construction Management
- 4) Emergency Projects
- 5) Modifications to Address Security Issues Identified in a Vulnerability Assessment.

More detailed information on the types of projects, eligibility criteria, eligible and non-eligible items can be found in the Regional Guidelines.

III. WORKPLAN PROPOSAL AND APPLICATION SUBMISSION INFORMATION

The Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance (CFDA) Number for DWIG TSA is: 66.468

The applicant for funding under the DWIG-TSA program must undergo a System Assessment. This consists of an evaluation of a tribe's technical, managerial, and financial capabilities to operate and maintain a public water system in compliance with all national primary drinking water standards. The System Assessment is initiated from the Region and consists of a document filled out based on historical information, sanitary surveys, and observations made during site visits. This information is refined through meetings between the applicant and a representative of the Direct Implementation Public Water System Supervision program.

Each applicant must complete a System Assessment and furnish a financial assurance statement from the Chief or Chairman, along with a list of potential drinking water related projects with approximate costs for the next five years, prior to the grant award.

The grant application and work plan must be postmarked by April 17, 2008, and sent to:

Chris Thomas, Chief
Drinking Water Section
Environmental Protection Agency
61 Forsyth St., S.W.
Atlanta, GA 30303

IV. AWARD INFORMATION AND ADMINISTRATION

Regulations governing the award and administration of environmental program grants for tribes, including the DWIG TSA can be found at 40 CFR Part 31. For quick access copy this link and paste to your browser: <http://www.epa.gov/EPA-GENERAL/2001/January/Day-16/g219.htm>

Depending upon grant conditions, the grantee may be required to submit progress reports throughout the budget/project period.

A Final Technical Report must be submitted to the Drinking Water Project Officer within 90 days after the budget/project period expires.

Financial Status Reports (FSRs) must be submitted within 90 days after budget/project period expires.

QAPP certification forms with the application package.

Lobby/Litigation certifications are required with the application.

Dispute procedures can be found at 40 CFR Part 30 (30.63) and 40 CFR Part 31 (31.70). Links are noted above.

SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT ASSISTANCE

I. FUNDING OPPORTUNITY DESCRIPTION AND AWARD INFORMATION

Funding will be available this year to the federally-recognized American Indian tribes in EPA Region 4 for select activities involving solid waste management. Award amounts will be dependent upon the number of tribes submitting applications, the specific needs of applicants, and how well the applicant's proposal addresses the eligible activities. It is anticipated that funding for tribal solid waste management will range from approximately \$13,000 to approximately \$40,000 per approved project. Funding is not guaranteed for all applicants.

Region 4 seeks to fund projects that support the development and strengthening of self-sustaining integrated waste management programs on Region 4 tribal lands. The goal is to provide assistance to tribes as they build and maintain the capacity to implement solid and hazardous waste management programs in accordance with their individual needs. Specific objectives of the Regional RCRA program include:

- Promoting the development, and subsequent approval by an appropriate tribal governing body, of Integrated Waste Management Plans (IWMPs)
- Providing the means for tribal activities involving inventory, assessment and closing of open dumps (for tribes whereby this is an appropriate issue to address)

- Providing for training of tribal solid waste program personnel
- Promoting education and community participation as it relates to the reduction, diversion, reuse, recycling, and/or beneficial use of solid waste materials

The primary funding source available to tribes in Region 4 for solid waste management activities this year will allow for certain capital expenditures to be made (e.g., equipment purchases). All solid waste management activities proposed by tribes for EPA Region 4 funding should be included in one separate workplan. This includes those expenditures that in the past may have been included separately in the Indian Environmental General Assistance Program (GAP) application.

As in past years, a 5% match by applicants is recommended for solid waste management assistance funding.

II. ELIGIBLE ACTIVITIES AND INFORMATION

Eligible Activities

EPA's Strategic Plan establishes the Agency's national goals for a five year period and describes how EPA intends to achieve a cleaner, healthier environment. Within the Strategic Plan, EPA has established five goals. Eligible activities for this funding opportunity fit under Goal 3 – Land Preservation and Restoration, Objective 3.1 – Preserve Land, and, Goal 5 – Compliance and Environmental Stewardship, Objective 5.3 – Improve Human Health and the Environment in Indian Country. When approving workplans, EPA must ensure that funded activities can be linked to EPA's Strategic Plan. Also, EPA solid waste management personnel have been working diligently with tribes on a national level over the past several years to develop achievable tribal solid waste-related measures for inclusion as EPA Government Performance and Results Act (GPRA) measures. The GPRA holds federal agencies accountable for achieving program results, and thus, it ties directly into the considerations by elected officials for future budget decisions involving federal agencies. By accomplishing its GPRA commitments, EPA can better sustain future funding of its successful programs. EPA tribal solid waste-related GPRA measures are in place and are a primary focus of the Agency's solid waste management activities in Indian Country. The two GPRA measures involve: (1) the number of tribes covered by an integrated waste management plan (IWMP), and (2) the number of open dumps closed, cleaned up or upgraded in Indian Country (with the universe being the Indian Health Service's SDS/OMDS database).

Specific activities eligible for funding that are associated with the aforementioned objectives of the Regional RCRA program include:

- Developing new or updating existing Integrated Waste Management Plans such that they include the "Five Elements of a Tribal IWMP", as described in the July 30, 2007, memo from the Director of EPA's Office of Solid Waste to EPA Regional RCRA Directors. The five elements include: (1) Description of the community service area; (2) Description of the Tribe's waste management program structure and administration; (3) Description of the Tribe's current and proposed waste management practices; (4) Description of the funding and sustainability and the long-term goals of the Tribe's waste management

program; and (5) Documentation of approval of the IWMP by appropriate governing body.

- Compiling information or preparing inventories of open dumps, performing assessments of existing open dumps, and/or closing or cleaning up open dumps. These activities may not be options for funding proposals for all Region 4 tribes, as open dumps are no longer a primary concern or focus of some tribes' solid waste management or environmental programs.
- Providing for appropriate training of tribal solid waste management program personnel. Proposals in workplans for training activities need to be as specific as possible in order to be considered for funding (e.g., the training to be taken, the date(s) of the training, location, etc.).
- Promoting education and community participation as it relates to the reduction, diversion, reuse, recycling, and/or beneficial use of solid waste materials. This can also include education on waste-related environmental concerns and human health threats, such as open burning, open dumping, etc.

Funding of staff positions for routine tribal waste management operations is discouraged. However, partial funding of staff positions will be considered if a dedicated portion of that qualified position is committed to working on a specific eligible activity (e.g., the development of an IWMP).

Measurements and Reporting

All project proposals need to include tasks which will obtain achievable and measurable results. EPA is continually working toward better reporting of results achieved by funded projects. Applicants should highlight proposed measures in their workplans. The Region 4 Tribal RCRA Coordinator can be contacted to discuss types of measures that could be linked to proposed activities in the draft workplan submittal.

Quarterly Reports are due 30 days after the end of each quarter of the project period. A Final Report will be due 90 days after the project period end date. Deliverables, as described in the project workplan, should be included with Quarterly and Final Reports, or when they are completed/finalized.

III. WORKPLAN PROPOSAL AND APPLICATION SUBMISSION INFORMATION

Interested potential applicants are encouraged to contact the Region 4 Tribal RCRA Coordinator at their earliest convenience following receipt of this solicitation to discuss their solid waste management funding needs. Dependent upon activities proposed, additional information and/or guidance will be provided to applicants for development of their workplans (e.g., IWMP templates, models, etc.). Draft workplan proposals for Solid Waste Management Assistance are

due to Region 4 by March 17, 2008. Draft proposals should be sent directly to:

Davy Simonson
Tribal RCRA Coordinator
U.S. EPA Region 4
4RD-RPMMB/PSPS
61 Forsyth St., S.W.
Atlanta, GA 30303
404-562-8457
simonson.davy@epa.gov

IV. AWARD INFORMATION AND ADMINISTRATION

The critical dates for application and awarding of solid waste management assistance funds are as follows:

Announcement & Guidance distributed by EPA.....Thursday, 2/14/08
Draft Workplan Proposals due to Region 4.....Monday, 3/17/08
Funding Decision Notification by Region 4.....Friday, 4/11/08
Complete, Signed Applications due.....Thursday, 5/15/08
Grant Awarded by.....Tuesday, 9/30/08*

* It is the intent of Region 4 to award funds for solid waste management projects as expeditiously as possible after receipt of complete, signed applications and acceptable workplans.

Applicants awarded funding must comply with the terms and conditions of the grant award as well as the federal regulations governing the award and the administration of the environmental programs for tribes and tribal consortia, found in Title 40 of the Code of Federal Regulations (CFR), Parts 31 and 35, Subpart B (40 CFR 35.500-35.518).

Financial Status Reports (FSRs) are required semi-annually (Interim FSRs) and a Final FSR must be submitted within 90 days after grant periods expire.

QAPP certification forms are included in the grant application package. The following pertains to Quality Management Plans (QMPs) and Quality Assurance Project Plans (QAPPs):

If a proposed activity in the workplan will require the collection and/or assessment of environmental information or data, a required QAPP will need to be submitted at least 2 months prior to sample collection for EPA approval. EPA intends all environmental decision-making be based upon data of known quality. To assure that quality, a QAPP needs to be developed which defines that data quality. The workplan schedule and deliverables must incorporate that process into timelines. Other conditions involving data assessment will also be required.

In addition, EPA will place emphasis on data quality. An important project task should include an assessment of the data, and an assessment of whether the data met the intended project objectives. EPA will be looking for those tasks if the project includes collection of data. Data generated under an EPA grant may be entered into national databases.

Lobby/Litigation certifications are required with the application and again with the close-out package.

Dispute procedures can be found at 40 CFR Part 30 (30.63) and 40 CFR Part 31 (31.70). Links are noted above.